



Essanay Has A Sheriff of Its Own

Rapley Holmes Has Figured in the Role Both On the Stage and Off

A Lubin Company Back from Shores of Saranac Lake with Abundance of Winter Atmosphere—"The Millionaire for a Day" Investigates Films at the Lubin Plant

Rapley Holmes, a graduate from the ranks of theatrical stars, will henceforth be seen on the screen in the Essanay productions. Mr. Holmes was at one time a deputy sheriff of New York county, and it was through the members of the Lambs Club of that city that Sheriff Tom Foley picked him as a deputy, giving as his reason the naturalness shown by this actor in the part of Slim Hoover in Edmund Day's massive production "The Round Up." Mr. Holmes is a jovial fellow, weighing 310 pounds and standing 6 feet 2 inches in his stocking feet. Nobody loves a fat man? Well, you should see the hundreds of letters that are reaching him daily from all over the country—girls who have written to him, who have seen him in Essanay photoplays.

"Mongrel and Master" is the title of a political drama of importance to be rehearsed by the Essanay Film Manufacturing Company on May 14. The story concerns two plain, everyday hold-up men, who later become interested in politics, one turns straight, the other—a modern politician. There is a lot concerning the election of a mayor with the necessary romance, which is so essential in pictures. Francis X. Bushman and Rapley Holmes appear in the two leading roles.

The Lubin Company (Barry O'Neill, director), which for the past four weeks has been stationed at Saranac Lake to get extreme winter atmosphere for the photoplay adaptation of "The Wolf," by Eugene Walter, has removed to Asheville, N. C. On the way south the company stopped off at the home plant and delivered several thousand feet of very beautiful snow scenes.

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and directors took great pleasure in entertaining the much-talked-of "man in the public eye."

On account of the call of the wild, the Essanay dramatic company almost lost one of its leading men, Richard C. Travers, last week. He was cast for the role of Pierre, in a feature picture entitled "Pierre of the North," and the portrayal of the character took him back to the days of his youth, when he lived in reality the life of the people of the French Canadian trading post.

When he got out into the woods and was handling the gun and fur pelts, he was homesick enough for the old life to be tempted to give up his dramatic art and go back to the tall and uncut timbers. But he didn't.

The Jesse L. Lasky Feature Film Co.
GET ON OUR MAILING LIST
Long Acre Theatre Bldg., New York

News of Photoplays and Photoplayers

"THROUGH BLINDNESS TO LIGHT" A COMING BIG UNIVERSAL MELODRAMA

Director Lund, of Eclair, Simultaneously Produces Three Plays—Hudson Maxim Getting Out Startling Dynamite Films for the Colonial

"Through Blindness to Light" is the title of a two-reel melodrama now in the course of production by Director Frank Crane at the New York Imp studio. By Stuart Paton, it tells the story of a blind hero, a girl who goes wrong, a brother who is murdered in attempting to revenge her wrongs, and a final reckoning. Mr. Crane plays the part of the murdered brother. An odd situation comes where the blind artist plays chess—unconscious of his identity—with the villain who ruined his sweetheart and also killed the brother.

For a director to have three plays in the course of production at the same time, all over two reels, is rather out of the ordinary. Yet C. A. C. Lund, Eclair's most brilliant director, is guilty of it at the present time. "Snow Drift," a two-reel play of the Northwest; "Regina," a three-reel play dealing with contemporary political conditions, and "Pictures in the Fireplace," an American business story, are all in the course of making under his direction. Again, Mr. Lund is the author of them all, and is enacting the lead male roles.

Eddie Redway, who is now playing leading comedy roles with the Essanay eastern company, was for a year connected with Arthur Roberts at the Lyric Theatre, London, England, where he played in "The Modern Don Quixote" and later under the management of Mr. George Edward.



Pearl Sidelar (Pathé)

In the famous comedy "The Messenger Boy," Mr. Redway is well known in Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

Every director, according to his own ideas and training, has his own methods of directing. But it is a noticeable fact that a great majority of them are noisy in giving directions to players, particularly when in the midst of a big scene. Director Frank Crane, turning out Imp features, however, is an apostle of the "Soft Pedal" school.

"I was born in the West, raised on a farm and owned a ranch of my own," says Frank, "and my experience in handling farm animals has guided my handling of players. Yelling at a horse when he hesitates at jumping a stream or climbing a ridge always makes him nervous, unsure of himself and often balky. Experience has taught me that the same thing applies to an actor. Yell and rave at him when a difficult piece of work is to be done, and he is apt to go to pieces and make a mess of it. Just reassure your player with a soft word of encouragement and results are most satisfactory when the work is shown on the screen."

ESSANAY
FIVE-A-WEEK
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MOHAWK FILM CO., Inc.
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Times Bldg. New York City, N. Y.

Spring coming on, and, more important, Easter, King Baggot decided that his wardrobe needed replenishing with fresh suits, hats, boots and shoes. But before this could be done it was necessary to clean out hundreds of pieces of clothing and what not that had served their usefulness. As a result fifty or more newboys and street urchins added to their wardrobes considerably with clothing that was "im-mense," though somewhat large. However, some of them probably had mothers who could use the needle to advantage.

The articles given away had cost the actor in assembling not less than two thousand dollars. Some of the pieces had come with him from the legitimate years before and bore trade-marks of stores situated all over the United States. By Easter, King will have restocked his wardrobe at considerable expense, but he is determined to make a good job of it.



Hudson Maxim (Universal)

Hudson Maxim, inventor of "Maximite," "Stabilite" and other explosives adopted by the government, has entered the field of motion pictures. At his estate in Maxim Park, Lake Hopatcong, he will superintend for the Colonial Motion Picture Corporation the production of films of an extraordinary nature, calling for the use of dynamite and other high powered explosives. The first of these films is being made for one of the departments of the government. It is intended to illustrate safe methods of handling dynamite, and will be exhibited widely throughout the country. Mr. Maxim's familiarity with this powerful agent of destruction is more than theoretical, as he lost a hand some years ago in one of his experiments with it. The inventor himself will appear in some of his films. Although Mr. Maxim is widely known as a peace advocate, he is consulting engineer and experimental expert for the E. I. DuPont-DeNemours Powder Company, and the inventor of many brands of smokeless powder. He also acts, in a general capacity, as technical expert for the Colonial, which controls all his improvements in motion pictures.

For the first time since he became the leading Edison star, Ben Wilson took a very minor part in an important performance. It was at the Little Church Around the Corner, and the leading roles in this performance were played by Ben Wilson, Jr., and the minister, for the little fellow was being christened. He just simply monopolized the whole scene and showed lots of temperment. He bids fair to grow up as handsome and popular as his talented father.

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Producers

Synchrony Secured in Singing Pictures

The Renfax Unites Simplicity and Success in the Apparatus it Produces

The Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play Company Releases "Brewster's Millions," with Edward Abeles, the Original Monty Brewster, in the Leading Role

The temporary halt in the progress of the "talking picture" and the "singing picture" toward assured and recognized place in filmdom promises to give way to rapid advance under the auspices of the Renfax Film Company, of New York. The one great obstacle to the acceptance of the "talking picture" by exhibitors and the public has been the lack of perfect synchrony between the pictures and the talking or singing voices that accompanied them. To remedy this defect, to simplify and correct the synchronizing apparatus and demonstrate to the skeptical that the talking and singing picture was a practical, money-making possibility, was the aim of the Renfax Film Company in entering the field. And simplicity and success are the two striking results the company has achieved.

The chief feature of the Renfax method is the synchronizer, an instrument extraordinary for its simplicity. Two magnets with wires attached, one wire connected with the phonograph, the other with the projector and operated in unison, control an indicator on top of the synchronizing cabinet. By consulting this, the operator can be certain that the film and the phonographic record are working in absolute synchronism. To keep the indicator in the absolute center of its card is all that is necessary.

Any projection machine may be used with the Renfax equipment—a fact which may solve many an exhibitor's doubts. A crank that can be attached to any projector is furnished with the service. The company supplies the records with the film, on a rental basis. In half an hour, any experienced operator can be taught to use the Renfax apparatus with the best results. A series of rapid experiments with dialogue, monologue, operatic selections and dramatic scenes ended with the company's conviction that the biggest demand was for popular songs.

They are now producing six singing features a week, all made at the Crystal studios. Forty-six Renfax "singing pictures" are at this moment available to the exhibitor. Seventy-six exhibitors in New York, New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania are now using the Renfax service. The company is planning to open branch offices in the middle West very soon. State rights will be sold in other territories.

Among the Renfax successes now on the market are "In Bagdad," "The Noodle Soup Rag," "I Love Her, Oh! Oh! Oh!" "Apple Blossom Time in Normandy," "Where Did You Get that Girl?" "Chattanooga," "Melinda's Wedding Day," "My Wonderful Dream Girl," "Salvation Nell," "The Old Maid's Ball," "Faust" (in four parts), "One in a Million."

"Brewster's Millions," the five-part production of the Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play Company, is now ready for release. As a novel, "Brewster's Millions" won added fame for its author, George Barr McCutcheon, and it is estimated that it has been read by nineteen million people. When dramatized by Winchell Smith and Melville Stone it won instantaneous success, and on Broadway alone scored 1,800 performances. Picturized by Cecil B. DeMille and Oscar Apfel, and with Edward Abeles, the original Monty Brewster in the lead, it is evidently destined to win a new and bigger success in a far more extended field.

In staging "Brewster's Millions" at the Lasky studios, Hollywood, Cal., there was filmed an intimate view of Sherry's ballroom, an exact reproduction of what is conceded to be the most luxurious ballroom in America, while the yacht scenes were all taken on board the Millionaire Spreckels' palatial yacht.

When in doubt, wait and see what Miss Irene Warfield, of the Essanay Eastern Dramatic Company is wearing. If she has it on, it is sure to be the very latest word from Dame Fashion. For, besides work, this popular young photoplay star has two hobbies which she enjoys riding to the utmost. One is clothes and the other is to attend an afternoon tango tea.

Joseph DeGrasse, veteran actor and motion picture director, who for a number of years was featured in his own productions by the Pathe and Lubin companies, has assumed the directorship of the Universal Victor Company, which J. Warren Kerrigan is featured.

ADOLPH ZUKOR RETURNS FROM TRIP TO HIS PACIFIC COAST STUDIOS

President of the Famous Players Perfects Plans to Keep His Organization in the Forefront—Wray Physioc, of the Mohawk Film Co., Blown Up in a Too-Realistic Explosion

After a month's absence, during which he visited the Los Angeles studios to confer with Edwin S. Porter on some big plans contemplated for his company, Adolph Zukor, president of the Famous Players, returned last Sunday to New York.

Among other subjects considered at this conference of the president and technical director of the Famous Players were the order of releases of the celebrated stage successes controlled by Charles Frohman and Henry W. Savage, Inc., secured by the Famous Players' recent alliance with those managers; the forthcoming trip to Europe with James K. Hackett for a production of "Monsieur Beau-

We usually hear of moving picture rehearsals fooling the innocent bystander, who mistakes a melodramatic incident for an actual occurrence, and rushes to rescue the heroine from the camera villain. This order of things, however, was reversed one day this week up along the Maine coast in the vicinity of Portland, where the "Hearts of Oak" company are rehearsing the exterior scenes of James A. Hurne's picturesque play. It will be recalled by those familiar with the plot of the piece that the sensational dramatic climax is brought about by a spectacular wrecking scene in which the explosion and conflagration of a large schooner occurs during a violent storm.

Wray Physioc, the stage director, had everything prepared to take effective pictures of this scene. The schooner was in position near the rocks. There was an actual storm in progress. The actors were on board the schooner waiting for their cue to leap into the "raging sea" as soon as it was evident from the rising smoke that the boat was on fire. The fuse had been applied to the smoke pots in the cabin and the photographer began to take films at great speed. Suddenly, before receiving their cue, Ralph Stuart, George Middleton and J. A. Fitzgerald were



Chester Beecroft

caire" in the exact locality of the story; the erection and construction of the new studio in Long Island City exclusively for the production of the Charles Frohman plays, and many other matters that will soon evidence an important influence on the programme of the Famous Players.

Malcolm Williams, one of the foremost character delineators of the American stage, will be presented by the Famous Players Film Company in a production of "The Brute," by Frederic Arnold Kummer. "The Brute" is a tense, modern drama of the clash of wills between a strong man and a weak woman, the climax of which hangs in the balance until the man, in righteous indignation, exerts his full physical strength toward the subjugation of the woman, and through sheer force brings his willful and mercenary wife to see her folly and lovingly acknowledge her master for all time.

Fred J. Balhofer, manager of the Ford Sterling Comedy Company at the Universal Pacific Coast Studios, is literally deluged in letters from those who are competing for the \$25 reward offered to the person who suggests the most appropriate name for the new brand of Universal comedies in which Mr. Sterling is featured. Fantastical, Biblical, mythological and hundreds of other types of character names have been suggested. Among the most interesting names suggested are "Sterling Silver," "New Era," "Mirch," "Lodestone," "Sky-lark," "Tip-Top," "Fanny Film," "Stetson," "Standard," "Bohemian," "Uni-Ford," "Target," "Star," "Universal Ford," "Crackerjack," "Orpheus" and "Excelsior."



Florence Lawrence (Victor)

seen to make a leap for life. Then there was a premature explosion. Wray Physioc, who had been in the cabin, rushed on deck badly burned around the face and neck, and also jumped overboard.

"The Littlest Rebel," the stage success in which both Dustin and William Farnum have appeared, will be the first feature to be made by the Photo-Play Productions Company, recently organized with Frank A. Tichenor, the man who started the Manhattan Slide and Film Company and built it into prosperity, as its treasurer and general manager.

E. K. Lincoln, who has been a Vitagraph star for two seasons, has been engaged to take the leading role. Mr. Lincoln was featured in "A Million Bids," which has had such a successful run at the Vitagraph Theatre.

There is still deep mystery concerning the name of the actress who will take the lead in "The Littlest Rebel," but her name will be made public in a couple of weeks. It is said that she is one of the most prominent actresses in the motion picture business.

Two other important positions are well filled. The producer is Edgar Lewis, who made Reliance pictures for the Mutual programme for a long time. The photographer is Philip Rosen, one of the country's best-known camera men.

The Banker's Daughter An Assured Success

Edward M. Roskam, Head Life Photo Film Corporation, to Release Favorite

Bronson Howard's Famous Play Obtain Renewed Lease of Life Photoplay—Triumph Won on Speaking Stage to be Extended Over Wider Area

The exclusive rights to produce motion pictures throughout the world "The Banker's Daughter," the late Bronson Howard, come to be the premier dramatic play, tracing American life, was purchased from the estate of Mr. Howard by the Life Photo Film Corporation.

The story of "The Banker's Daughter" is too well known to need repetition here. It is replete with a host of dramatic incidents interspersed with love, pathos and humor. Production is under the direction of that able director, William F. Haddock, late with the all-star production, Mr. Haddock produced another feature, "Paid in Full," "Soldiers of Fortune."

The cast, chosen after five weeks of careful selection, includes some of the best artists in the theatrical profession. The settings are pretentious and with the wonderful story bodied in "The Banker's Daughter" the production should be one will appeal to the public.

It will be released in five parts about the middle of April.

The laboratories and studio of Life Photo Film Corporation marvels of perfection. The company does the largest volume of printing, developing, tinting and toning film for outside concerns in addition to taking care of the laboratory of its own productions.

The company has purchased from William Gillette, the veteran of "Legitimate" and forever thought in connection with "The Admirable Crichton," "Sherlock Holmes," "Secret Service," the exclusive rights of the latter success, including personal services of Mr. Gillette take the leading part.

The play "Secret Service" is a drama and, needless to say, of national fame. All of the extra scenes will be taken by the company in and around Richmond, Va. The announcement of the production of "Secret Service" and that Gillette will personally appear in motion picture version of the picture industry. This production will be followed by other sensational features.



Arthur V. Johnson (Lubin)

Mr. Edward M. Roskam, president; Leonard Abrahams, vice-president; Bernard Loewenthal, treasurer; and Jesse J. Goldberg, secretary of the company, Mr. Malou, former of World Best Film Company, is with this company.

Mr. Roskam is a pioneer film man. He is a well-known member of the New York Screen Club, he is favorably known throughout the industry for his energy and ideas and his bright future is ahead of the Life Photo Film Company under his management.

The latest Nestor comedy, which is now being produced at the Universal Pacific Coast Studios by Director E. Christie, its author, is entitled "Their Honeymoon." The story tells of a newly married couple who set out to visit their uncle in the city and are mistaken for lunatics. They are conducted to the asylum where two insane persons are received as an uncle as his nephew.

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